

5-7, 10, and 19 from their respective parent claims discussed above. These rejections must therefore also fall.

The rejections of claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,705,205) are respectfully traversed. Par. 5 of the Office Action states that Allen discloses the instant claimed invention except for: a conductive polymer," but that Smith discloses a polymer terminal. However, Smith does not in fact disclose or even suggest a conductive polymer in an "elastically compressible" terminal having a "coil," as recited in independent claim 12. Thus the rejection of claim 12 is improper. Among other distinctions, dependent claims 13-14 incorporate all the recitations of parent claim 12.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. in view of Smith et al. Dependent claim 17 incorporates all the recitations of parent claim 12, and thus distinguishes Smith as discussed above. The Allen patent has absolutely no suggestion of a conductive polymer "injected" into any of his vias. Therefore this rejection of claim 17 is also respectfully traversed.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully urges that the claims distinguish in a patentable manner over the cited references, and ought to be allowed. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 371-2157 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 14 day of September, 2001.

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